

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 6, 7, 9, 10, 15, 19, 39-43, 46 and 47 are now active in this application, Claims 8, 14, 44 and 45 having been canceled, Claim 43 having been amended and Claims 46 and 47 having been added by the present amendment.

In the outstanding office action, Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite; Claims 43 and 44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO96/13463 in view of Gentry (U.S. Patent No. 5,601,797); and Claim 14 was objected to under 37 CFR § 1.75 as being duplicate of Claim 7. However, Claims 6, 7, 9, 10, 15, 19 and 39-42 were allowed; Claim 8 was indicated as being allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112; and Claim 45 was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter.

Amended Claim 43 and new Claims 46 and 47 are fully supported by the specification, drawings and claims as originally filed. Applicants therefore submit that no new matter has been introduced.

In response to the rejection of Claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, Claim 8 has been canceled and Claims 46 and 47, which substantially correspond to Claims 40 and 41 respectively, have been added to recite the claimed subject matter in definite terms. Accordingly, Claims 46 and 47 are believed to be in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph and so believed to be allowable. This amendment is not believed to raise new issues. If, however, the Examiner disagrees, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned who will be happy to work in a joint effort to derive mutually satisfactory claim language.

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Amendment after final

In response to the rejection of Claims 43 and 44 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a), Claim 44 has been canceled and Claim 43 has been amended to include features recited in Claim 45, which was indicated as being allowable. Therefore, Claim 43 is believed to be allowable.

In response to the objection to Claim 14 under 37 CFR § 1.75, Claim 14 has been canceled.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, and in view of the indication of allowable subject matter, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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